

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6467

S E C R E T MASERU 1460

NODIS

FOR AF-EDMONDSON FROM SCHAUFLE

DEPT PASS GENEVA FOR WISNER AND LONDON

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: CHONA'S VIEWS ON INTERIM GOVERNMENT

REF: GENEVA 9552

1. I FULLY CONCUR WITH RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED PARA 16 REFTEL. WHATEVER FINALLY EMERGES FROM GENEVA WE SHOULD MAKE IT UNMISTAKABLY CLEAR THAT BACKTRACKING BY AFRICANS WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE OVER PAST FOUR WEEKS IS CLEAR DEPARTURE FROM UNDERSTANDINGS, IF NOT COMMITMENTS, WE HAD BEEN GIVEN IN OUR CONSULTATIONS.

2. PREVIOUS REPORTING LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THAT BRITISH AT LEAST SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS DRIFT ALL DURING THE CONFERENCE. EVEN THOUGH UKDEL MAY BE TREATING RHODESIAN DELEGATION MORE COURTEOUSLY THE INATE DISTASTE OF LABOR GOVERNMENT FOR SMITH HAS NEVER BEEN MORE THAN THINLY DISGUISED.

3. THEREFORE I THINK IT EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT REINHARDT MAKE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR TO RICHARD THAT HE MUST GET ACROSS TO AFRICANS THAT THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT UK AND/OR US CAN DELIVER BOTH SOUTH AFRICA AND SMITH THE CONCURRENCE WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY FOR SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME IN GENEVA. SIMPLE AGREEMENT AMONG NATIONALISTS, FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS AND NIGERIANS, EVEN IF UK COULD GO ALONG,

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IS NOT SUFFICIENT. THE FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS HAVE CLEARLY DEMON-

STRATED THAT THEY CANNOT DELIVER THE NATIONALISTS, AS THEY
IMPLIED THEY COULD, DESPITE DIRECT LEVERAGE OVER ZIPA. YET
THEY INFER THAT WE CAN DELIVER SMITH EVEN THOUGH OUR LEVERAGE
IS NEITHER SO DIRECT NOR SO GREAT. STOKES

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